

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on December 28, 2007. Claims 7-13 are currently pending in the application, with claims 7 and 11 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claims 7-11 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found at least in paragraphs 28-29 and Figure 1 of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application, namely claims 7-13 are patentable over the prior art.

Rejection of Claims 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 7-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tashiro et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0176439 A1), hereinafter “Tashiro”. Claim 7 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the rejection. Claim 7 has been amended to recite dummy cell and image display cell “regions”, “a first sealing material surrounding the image display cell region” and “a second sealing material surrounding the dummy seal region, wherein the second sealing material does not surround the first sealing material”. Claims 8-10 have been similarly amended. Claim 11 has been amended to recite “wherein the dummy cells do not envelop the image display cell”. Support for these amendments is found at least in paragraphs 28-29 and Figure 1 of the specification.

The liquid crystal display panel member comprises an image display cell region and a dummy cell region. The image display cell region is surrounded by a sealing material. The dummy cell region is also surrounded by a sealing material. Both the image display cell region and the dummy cell region are filled with liquid crystal. The dummy cell region does not display the image. The dummy cell region is individually formed outside the image display area on a periphery of the image display cell. The sealing material surrounding the dummy cell

region does not also surround or envelop the sealing material surrounding the image display cell region. The image display cell region is not inside the dummy cell region. There is a space between the image display cell region and the display cell region.

Regarding claim 7, Tashiro does not disclose or suggest “wherein the second sealing material does not surround the first sealing material”. Referring to Figure 80 and paragraphs 413-414, Tashiro only discloses a first dummy seal 324 surrounding a main seal 322. Main seal 322 surrounds the image display area. The portion formed by the first dummy seal 324 and the main seal 322 (referred to as “dummy cell” on page 3 of the Office Action) completely surrounds the inside portion of the main seal 322 where the image is displayed. In the present invention, the sealing material surrounding the dummy cell region does not also surround or envelop the sealing material surrounding the image display cell region. The image display cell region is not inside the dummy cell region. There is a space between the image display cell region and the dummy cell region.

Regarding claim 11, Tashiro does not disclose or suggest “wherein the dummy cells do not envelop the image display cell”. As recited above, Tashiro only discloses a first dummy seal 324 surrounding a main seal 322 that surrounds the image display area. The “dummy cell” formed by the first dummy seal 324 and the main seal 322 envelops the inside portion of the main seal 322 where the image is displayed. In the present invention, the image display cell region is not inside the dummy cell region. There is a space between the image display cell region and the dummy cell region.

Accordingly, claims 7 and 11 are believed to be patentable over Tashiro. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to these claims is respectfully requested and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Claims 8-10 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 7 and claims 12-13 depend directly from claim 11 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given hereinabove.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 7-13 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,

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